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A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

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Father Darkleaf

BY
Calvin Robinson

Nothing like a refreshing rain to build up our spirits after a long dry seige. In Psalm 27:14 we are reminded to have courage and "wait on the Lord." Records for extended dryness were set during July and about all we could do was to wait. Often a dry spell ends with a terrific thunder storm, but as I write this on Monday morning, a light rain is falling. Ah yes, who knows, in a week may even think about getting out the lawnmower and that is something not done often this summer. Farmers and gardeners are optimists. I predict that those whose gardens and farms have suffered from dryness this year will be right back in there next year and 1978 will be a good year!

* * *

At hand is an interesting letter from one of our valued readers, Bro. Omah P. Farrar, Jr., of Clinton, Mississippi. He recalls his early days in "the never to be forgotten city of Evergreen, " Appomattox County, Va., and listed familiar family names there. His father was Station Agent for the N & W and his grandfather, W. C. Farrar was also an N & W employee. Mr. Farrar's son played defensive end for University of Southern Mississippi football team which in recent years has taken on VMI, VPI and Univ. of Richmond. His son is now football coach and teacher at Clinton, Miss. High School. And his daughter, Landa Gayle (Strumm) is a teacher at Univ. of Miss. Medical School. Thanks for your letter, sir. I recall a visit or two to Mississippi. Especially Jackson. And on the wall in my den is a souvenir from **The Scott County Times**, Forest, Miss.

* * *

Vacation time passes so quickly, one often forgets to keep a vacation dairy. Yet memories have lingering ways. One evening, when TV did not have any favorite program to offer, I passed the time making up FOUR lists. A list of places I had been, places I had not been and sorry I missed; prominent people I had met and/or seen in person, and finally prominent people of my time I would have liked to have met and talked to. All of my lists were long ones. I have never been to Chicago, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Boston, Niagra Falls Falls or Canada. But I have been to New York several times, Los Angeles, Houston, San Antonio Van Horn, New Orleans, Atlanta, Miami, Charleston, Savannah, Ashville, Atlantic City, Coney Island, the Grand Canyon, Evergreen and Vera. I have a snapshot picture I took of William Jennings Bryan, David Lloyd George, etc. and met and talked to Will Rogers, Lana Turner, William Howard Taft, Paderewski, Damon Runyan, Sherwood Anderson, etc., but I never saw Jimmy Durante, Jim Thorpe, Geo. S. Patton or Bishop Sheen. I sat by Babe Ruth once, met Jack Dempsey three times, but never saw Connie Mack. And so it goes. Passing years do tricky things to you. It may turn out that your "most unforgetable character" was some school classmate. The greatest place you ever visited may be some scene of bygone years, the first church you attended, or where some happening changed your life. Your first job. Many never forget their first car. My Den is such a mess because I cannot find things I am willing to throw away. It is like the Redskins practicing in a telephone booth. But, so what! I encourage you to travel, gather and keep souvenirs.....and memories. But never forget to come HOME to Appomattox.

* * *

Next Monday is August 1. I do not see any red letter holidays, but there will be thirty-one days you can use to advantage. Thanks for reading and seeya next week.

Harry G. Lawson Elected

National Director For WOW

Harry G. Lawson of Appomattox, who was a delegate to the national convention of the Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society held July 17 - 21, 1977 at the Town and Country Hotel in San Diego, California, has returned home.

While attending the convention, Lawson was elected a Director to serve on the Board of Directors of this National insurance company that services all the fifty states.

A native of Appomattox, Lawson was Commonwealth's Attorney for Appomattox County for eight years before resigning to accept a position with Woodmen of the World in Omaha, Nebraska as Assistant General Counsel. After a year and one half, he returned to Appomattox to open a law office but still represented WOW in Virginia and on the East Coast.

Lawson is a member of the Lions Club; a Past President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce; Past President and one of the founders of the Falling River Country Club, presently serves as Vice President; a Past President of the Booster Club; Past Chairman and member of the Board of Directors of Fidelity American Bank; and is a member of the Board of Directors of YMCA for the State of Virginia.

He is married to the former Miss Louise Burnette of Appomattox County and they are the parents of two children, Gordon and Debbie. They are members of Memorial United Methodist Church where Mr. Lawson serves on the Administrative Board and as a teacher of the young adult Sunday School Class.

Working together for greater growth and progress was the keynote theme established at the National Convention by National President Nick T. Newberry in his opening quadrennial message to the delegates.

After reviewing the progress and development of the Woodmen during the decade of the present administration, President Newberry proclaimed the success of the "7 for '77" program, that had been a main effort for greater fraternal activity during the past four years. He praised the entire 738,000 membership for its great effort and accomplishment.

The official delegates to the convention represented 29 jurisdictions of the Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society throughout the United States and, through the jurisdictions, the more than 4000 Woodmen lodges which carry on a multitude of fraternal, civic, and patriotic activities in their local communities.

School Board To Meet August 5

The Appomattox County School Board will meet in regular session in the Board Room in Appomattox on Friday, August 5, 1977 at 3 p.m.

Items on the agenda will include the opening of bids on fleet insurance; approval of School Lunch Program for 1977-78; discussion regarding pupil attendance and discipline procedures; report on plans for pre-school conference and opening of schools; report on progress of replacing heating system of Appomattox Primary School; report on progress of renovation of home economics cottage; report on summer conference sponsored by Virginia School Boards Association and a financial report.

Golf Course Remains Closed

All tournament play has been cancelled and the Falling River Country Club golf course remains closed to all play. The greens are recovering and with some cool, wet weather, officials are optimistic that play will resume in the near future.

Registration will begin Saturday, July 30, for the club championship tournament scheduled for Labor Day week-end. Members may write, visit or call 352-7037 to register for the 54 hole event, however they are reminded that they may register for themselves **ONLY.**

Register early in order to get your choice of morning or afternoon play.

$28,800 To Aid Local And State Criminal Justice Agencies

More than $28,800 was recently approved by the Virginia Council on Criminal Justice to aid local and state criminal justice agencies in upgrading their services and operations.

The Council on Criminal Justice (CCJ) and the Division of Justice and Crime Prevention are the state level agencies responsible for coordinating efforts to improve Virginia's criminal justice system. To accomplish this task, the CCJ annually receives a "block grant" of funds from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and allocates these funds to law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies in the state.

Slightly more than $9,600 in funds was approved by the CCJ to assist in the operation of three programs to prevent, treat and control juvenile delinquency. Lynchburg received $4,166 to continue the services of an Outreach Worker employed by Lynchburg Youth Services, Inc. In addition, $2,250 was approved to continue the psychological counseling services program provided to youths in Powhatan County; and an award of $3,187 was approved for use in purchasing equipment for the Outward Bound program in Pulaski County.

In adult corrections, a grant of $4,500 was approved to enable Albemarle County to continue the paramedical nursing program at the Albemarle-Charlottesville Joint Security Complex. Dinwiddie County received an award of $4,455 to provide additional library materials and establish a paramedic service sprogram at the County Jail in that community.

In the category of drug abuse prevention, treatment, and control, the CCJ awarded $4,495 to the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardatin to provide administrative support expenses for the newly created Division of Substance Abuse within that state agency. This new office houses previously separate drug and alcohol services.

A grant of $3,600 was approved for the Office of the Attorney General to conduct a two day Office Management Workshop for office managers and senior secretaries of the Commonwealth's Attorneys.

In the category of improving community relations with the criminal justice system, the Town of Vienna received a grant of $2,150 to train a law enforcement officer and purchase equipment for him to use in conducting a police-community relations program.

The Council on Criminal Justice will hold its next meeting August 4, 1977 in the Hyatt House, Richmond, Virginia. Highlighting that upcoming meeting will be the final presentation of the 1978 Virginia Criminal Justice Plan. The Plan, which is an annually updated document on the needs of Virginia's criminal justice system, is submitted to the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration in order to qualify Virginia for its annual block grant of LEAA funds.

Lions Club Will Meet Tonight

The Lions Club of Appomattox will meet tonight, Thursday at Maudes Restaurant at 6:45 p.m.

Ken Hudgins, Lynchburg meterologist with the National Weather Service, will be the guest speaker for the evening. Those who know Ken can attest to the value of the information which he presents.

All members will want to be present for this meeting.

Power Demand Peaks At 4-5 P.M.

Customers of Virginia Electric and Power Company established a one-hour peak demand of 7,709,000 kilowatts between 4 and 5 p.m. Monday.

William L. Proffitt, Vepco's Senior Vice President for Power, said the peak is 321,000 kilowatts more than the previous record peak of 7,388,000 kilowatts established on July 6, 1977. Monday's peak demand by customers is more than nine per cent above the peak demand of 7,040,000 kilowatts established on July 29, 1976, and more than eight per cent above the peak demand of 7,133,000 kilowatts established in August, 1975.

The energy required for the full 24-hour period on Monday was 147.5 million kilowatthours. Mr. Proffitt said the energy output on Monday surpassed the July 6 energy output of 142.9 million kilowatthours by more than three per cent, and is more than 11 per cent above the energy output of 132.8 million kilowatthours required on the peak day last summer.

Mr. Proffitt urged all customers to use electricty wisely during this continuing period of high electrical demand. Customer demand is expected to remain at near-record levels as the high temperatures continue.

Governor Takes Action To Relieve Virginian's Suffering From Drought Situation

Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. took action on three fronts during the past week to help wide areas of Virginia where farmers and others are suffering from the state's worst drought since 1930.

Appomattox County is one of the localities approved for assistance by the Federal Interagency Drought Emergency Coordinating Committee.

The action included:

Discussions with White House aide Jack Watson and Thomas Dunn, Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, asking prompt approval of Federal livestock feed subsidies for farmers in 42 counties, where total crop losses have been set at $152,613,348. This was a follow-up to a previous request.

Authorization for two localities to impose water conservation measures and assurances that the same authorization would be forth-coming for other localities which may face water shortages.

Appointment of a task force of State officials to monitor the drought and related problems daily and to advise him of other action needed by the State government to provide help.

At the same time, the Governor urged Virginia citizens to conserve water and electricity in order to avert more critical problems.

Action already taken by the Federal Interagency Drought Emergency Coordinating Committee has declared 56 counties and 23 adjacent cities eligible for grand and low-interest loan programs for water conservation and development and for crop and business losses.

A requested Presidential declaration which would authorize Federal subsidies of 2 cents a pound to help farmers buy feed for livestock is expected shortly.

Governor Godwin said he had been told by the Richmond office of the Federal Farmers Home Administration that it could use considerable flexibility in judging eligibility of farmers for loans to cover crop and livestock losses, and that applicants need not be extreme credit risks to qualify.

By the past weekend, the Governor had declared local water emergencies to exist in the town of Woodstock and Louisa because of the prolonged drought conditions. He said he would not hesitate to take similar action for other localities facing water shortages.

The action authorizes local governing officials to impose necessary water conservation measures "to ensure an adequate supply of water for essential uses, to protect the public health and safety, and alleviate possible suffering caused by this situation."

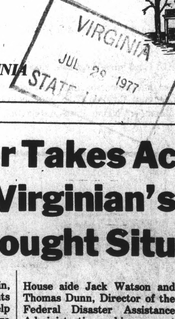
In other action, the Governor appointed an eleven-member Drought Emergency Task Force to provide him with advance warning of any severe worsening of the situation and to permit him to take addition action if necessary.

Maurice B. Rowe, the State's Secretary of Administration and Finance was appointed chairman of the task force, which also includes representatives of the State's agriculture, health, water, public utility, and emergency services agencies.

In addition to monitoring the drought conditions, the task force is developing a plan through which the state could deliver water by tank truck for human consumption and livestock if it becomes necessary in extreme situations, the Governor said.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS - At the Monday night meeting of American Legion Post 104, officers for the new year were installed. Left to right in above photo, they are Ralph Frank, Past Commander Post 16, Lynchburg and Past Commander, 10th District American Legion, the installing officer; Dr. W. P. Geisler, Commander; Ivey Holland, 1st Vice Commander; George Wooldridge, Sergeant-At-Arms; C. E. Harvey, Adjutant; and J. Fred Jones, Service Officer. Not available for photo were William E. Neathawk, 2nd Vice Commander; and J. M. Cobb, Jr., Chaplain.

Completes Assessment Officials Course



MONTE W. MAYS

Monte W. Mays, Commissioner of the Revenue for Appomattox County, has completed a course taught July 12, 13 and 14 at Central Virginia Community College sponsored by the Virginia Department of Taxation for assessment officials.

Topics discussed included appraising farms, residential property, commercial property, the assessing of personal property, machinery, tools, Merchant's Capital and Capital Not Otherwise Taxed. Also included was a session on mapping property.

Basically the role of the assessment person and his or her responsibility to the Department of Taxation and to the landowners and personal property owners of the state was reviewed.

Upon the completion of this school year, Mays is eligible to attend an advanced school in Charlottesville for assessment officials. He states that attending schools and classes of this nature should be of great assistance to him in carrying out the duties of the position of Commissioner of the Revenue and should enable him to be of more service to the citizens of this county.

Va. Economy Turned Upward In May

RICHMOND - The Virginia economy got back on track in May and resumed its upward trend, as 10 of the 18 indicators used in evaluating the state's economic well-being improved, according to Patricia W. Arthur, editor of the Virginia Commission's "Economics Indicators" magazine.

Of the six leading indicators, those that tend to foreshadow change, three improved over April's levels, two declined, and one was unchanged, Arthur wrote in the June issue. Average weekly initial claims for unemployment compensation fell 16.8 per cent to 5,070. Total accessions to manufacturing payrolls rose modestly to 38 per 1,000 from 37. The new hire rate also noted a slight gain to 30 per 1,000 from 29. Declining were the work week for manufacturing production workers at 40.2 hours, down from 40.3 in April, and nonagricultural job placements by the VEC, which dipped to about 7,000 in May from 7,400. Unchanged was the layoff rate in manufacturing, at six per 1,000.

Four of the indicators that coincide roughly with the current economic situation improved in May and two declined. Nonagricultural employment rose to 2,096,100, up by 2,200. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.8 per cent, and the state insured unemployment rate also declined, down to 2.0 per cent from 2.1. New business incorporations edged up to 812 from 799. On the downside, job openings received by the VEC dropped to 10,900 from 12,600, and unfilled job openings dipped to 12,700, down 800.

Three of the five other significant indicators moved up & two declined. Average weekly earnings rose by $.74 to $185.73. Electric power sales rose 16.3 per cent, and new vehicle registrations rose to 29,300, up from 28,600. Declining were the valuation of building permits, down 2.1 per cent to $71.1 million, and bank debits to demand deposits, down 8.4 per cent.

The quit rate in manufacturing, which reflects workers' assessment of the job market, remained unchanged at 19 per 1,000 workers.

"The uptrend in Virginia's economy in May is best illustrated by the over-the-year comparisons," Arthur wrote. "Sixteen of the eighteen indicators were at higher levels" this May than last.

HERE FOR THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE NEW BEN FRANKLIN STORE, located in Triangle Plaza Shopping Center, on Friday morning of last week were, left to right, Rick Pack, son of Mr. and Mrs. Brod Pack and grandson of Mayor and Mrs. Henry Pack; Howard Rew, Marketing and Real Estate Associate for **BEN FRANKLIN;** Jim Oakes, Store Operations Manager who was born and reared for the first five years of his life in Pamplin area; M. J. Youngberg, Director of Store Operations; Mayor Henry Pack who officiated at the ribbon cutting; Gerrie Nealley; Charlie Britt, Retail Sales Manager; Pete Nealley, co-owner and manager of the local store; H. L. Horn of Warsaw, co-owner and also owner of BEN FRANKLIN in Warsaw and one in Colonial Beach; and R. A. Pert, co-owner from Richmond. Grand Opening celebration continues at the BEN FRANKLIN store and they invite you to come by and visit and see what they have to offer.

Honored On Retirement

Area Conservationist, E. R. Simmons, (Left), presents Basil J. "Buster" Lucado with a Certificate of Merit upon his retirement from the Soil Conservation Service. Lucado has worked part-time with SCS for about 25 years. In addition to working in Appomattox and Campbell Counties, he has worked on watershed projects in Amherst and Buckingham Counties. SCS employees presented "Buster" with fishing tackle as a token of appreciation for his good work. He plans to continue his farming operation in Appomattox County.